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HOUSE RESOLUTION 9 of the Second Extraordinary Session
By Chumney

A RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring Jim and Judy Wallace for their dedication to the art of blacksmithing and their outstanding efforts in establishing Memphis as an important center for the arts.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor those outstanding Tennesseans who have given unselfishly of their time, talents and personal resources to advance the arts in their community; and

WHEREAS, James Wallace, the Founding Executive Director of the National Ornamental Metals Museum, is one such individual who has advanced the fine art of metal smithing in Memphis and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, born on April 30, 1947 in El Paso, Texas, Mr. Wallace began his career as a mining engineer in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, "Wally," as Jim is known to his friends and peers, had a vision to create a world-class blacksmithing facility, dedicated to training craftsmen in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, his vision led him to a derelict location on the Mississippi River. With great foresight, perseverance, and leadership, "Wally" turned it into one of the region's most beautiful and beloved areas; and

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WHEREAS, while on his journey to create a facility where other artists could come and study the art of blacksmithing, he fulfilled another dream in finding Judy, a dedicated partner and helpmate; and

WHEREAS, married on August 30, 1987, James and Judy have dedicated practically every waking hour to their work, living on the grounds that they built and maintain, while creating a place in which the Memphis community can take great pride; and

WHEREAS, the couple's enthusiasm created not only a world-class smithing facility, but also a new genre of public relations and fundraising with the "Repair Days" event. This event has drawn countless numbers of people to the museum during the 18 years in which it has been held; and

WHEREAS, the success of the smithing facility is a testament to Jim's dedication, who at one time served his cause without pay; and

WHEREAS, "Wally" is an instantly recognizable figure with his bushy mustache and biting sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, as an individual who sets extremely high standards for himself and for those around him, Jim is known for giving his talents to assist those who try, regardless of their skill levels; and

WHEREAS, the success of the National Ornamental Metals Museum is a testament to the exemplary relationship of Jim and Judy Wallace; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor Jim and Judy Wallace for their selfless dedication to the art of blacksmithing and their tireless enthusiasm in bringing significant attention to Memphis as an important center for the arts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.